

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KARACH 01842 120639Z

12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

DRC-01 /093 W

----- 114724

R 120526Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8347

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL LAHORE

UNCLAS KARACHI 1842

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ELAB, PK

SUBJECT: KARACHI PORT STRIKE

ANKARA FOR RLO

SUMMARY: A STRIKE BY CLERICAL AND SKILLED LABORERS BEGUN SEPTEMBER 10 HAS SHARPLY REDUCED KARACHI PORT OPERATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN (GOP) APPEARS DETERMINED TO BREAK UP THE STRIKE: THE UNION IS ALSO STRONG. NO ONE IS PREDICTING HOW LONG THE STRIKE WILL LAST. END SUMMARY

1. OVER 10,000 EMPLOYEES OF THE KARACHI PORT TRUST (KPT) WENT ON STRIKE THIS MORNING RESULTING IN A MAJOR WORK STOPPAGE. THE STRIKERS (CLERICAL WORKERS, TUG PILOTS, MOST CRANE OPERATORS, ETC.) ARE REPRESENTED BY THE ORGANISATION OF KPT WORKERS (OKPTW). THEY DO NOT INCLUDE DOCK WORKERS EMPLOYED BY THE STEVEDORING COMPANIES WHO, ACCORDING TO KPT, ARE CONTINUING SOME LOADING/UNLOADING WORK. POLICE AND FEDERAL SECURITY FORCE PERSONNEL ARE GUARDING THE PORT INSTALLATIONS. ACCORDING TO THE URDU DAILY "MASAWAT", 30 PERSONS WERE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KARACH 01842 120639Z

ARRESTED FOLLOWING THE STRIKE CALL ISSUED YESTERDAY.

2. THE STRIKE IS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE CHARTER OF DEMANDS PRESENTED BY THE OKPTW IN JULY, ASKING FOR HIGHER WAGES, BETTER MEDICAL AND HOUSING FACILITIES AND OTHER BENEFITS. EARLIER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE OKPTW AND THE KPT PROVED UNPRODUCTIVE. ON AUGUST 31 THE GOP BANNED THE PROPOSED STRIKE AND REFERRED THE DISPUTE TO THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION (NIRC) FOR ADJUDICATION. OKPTW REFUSED TO ATTEND NIRC HEARINGS IN KARACHI SEPTEMBER 5 AND 7. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE KPT AND OKPTW WERE HELD AGAIN SEPTEMBER 7 AND 8 BUT ENDED IN DEADLOCK. EACH SIDE CHARGED THE OTHER WITH GOING BACK ON PROVISIONS AGREED TO EARLIER.

3. THE GOP APPEARS DETERMINED TO BREAK THE STRIKE. THE NAVY HAS BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE. KEY PERSONNEL SUCH AS TUG PILOTS AND CRANE OPERATORS ARE BEING VISITED BY PERSONNEL OF VARIOUS OFFICIAL AGENCIES AND ASKED TO REPORT FOR DUTY. OKPTW IS INSISTING ON AGREEMENT WITH THE KPT WITHOUT RECOURSE TO NIRC OR ANOTHER SIMILAR AGENCY. THE UNION IS STRONG AND UNITED: THE GOP SEEMS EQUALLY DETERMINED.

4. THE STRIKE HAS COME AT A TIME WHEN THE CONGESTED SITUATION AT THE PORT HAD AT LAST BECOME MANAGEABLE (OWING PROBABLY AS MUCH TO DIMINISHED PORT TRAFFIC AS TO ANY INCREASE IN DOCK WORKER PRODUCTIVITY). THERE ARE CURRENTLY 23 SHIPS BERTHED AND TWO WAITING OUTSIDE THE HARBOR.
TIGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAGES, PORTS, LABOR STRIKES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KARACH01842
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740254-0490
From: KARACHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740952/aaaabsfv.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KARACHI PORT STRIKE ANKARA FOR RLO
TAGS: ETRN, ELAB, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005